

NEW CLAIMS

76. A method of reducing a cost of transmitting data from a mobile data collection terminal to a remote host over a communications network having a plurality of channels including a wireless channel, comprising the steps of:

- a) determining a location of the terminal relative to the host;
- b) determining the cost of transmitting the data from the location of the terminal over each channel to the host;
- c) selecting the channel for data transmission based on the location of the terminal and the cost determined to be least; and
- d) transmitting the data from the terminal to the host over the channel selected with the least cost.

77. The method of claim 76, and the step of determining a priority for the data, and wherein the selecting step is also based on the priority of the data.

78. The method of claim 76, and the step of recording an image using an image capture device in the terminal, and wherein the transmitting step includes transmitting the image.

79. The method of claim 78, wherein the image is a bar code symbol.